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Congressman
RUBEN HINOJOSA
Representing the 15th District of Texas

114th Congress

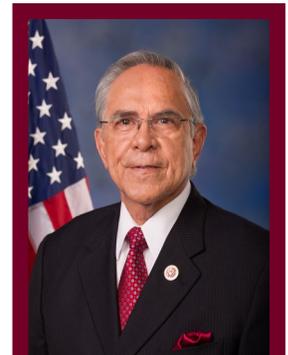
GRANTS ALERT, ISSUE 2

APRIL 2015

CONGRESSMAN RUBÉN HINOJOSA ANNOUNCES TWO GRANTS AWARDED TO UTRGV FOR OVER HALF A MILLION DOLLARS

The National Science Foundation awarded two separate grants to the University of Texas Rio Grande Valley totaling \$685,976 for a program that creates a pathway to obtaining a Master's degree in Mathematics and a workshop that will encourage and assist women of color in entering the field of political science.

The first program is The Pathways to Graduate School and Careers in the Mathematical Sciences project grant for \$636,071.00. This program is designed to increase the number of trained scholars ready to enter the STEM workforce. Scholarship support will be offered to students in South Texas Rio Grande Valley pursuing professional careers in fields requiring a significant background in



U.S. REP. RUBÉN HINOJOSA

D- MERCEDES

"The National Science Foundation has long been a great source of support for many vital programs in education throughout our nation", said U.S. Rep. Hinojosa. "These grants will benefit so many students at our new UTRGV for many years. I am very pleased to see that our higher education system in Deep South Texas continues to grow in ways that will enhance our communities and our residents throughout the Rio Grande Valley."

The second grant award for \$49,905.00 will be used for a workshop titled, Recruitment and Retention of Women of Color in Political Science to Improve Scholarship and Teaching, San Francisco, CA, September 2015. The goal of the conference is to provide attendees the necessary skills and networks to enter the political science profession, successfully achieve tenure and sustain their careers thereafter. This workshop brings together scholars from different universities, at different stages in their careers, to deepen intellectual engagement and to build coalitions that support excellence in diversifying the political science profession. Research demonstrates that women of color face barriers such as lack of mentorship, financial resources, and significant familial responsibilities in their pursuit of higher education and subsequent careers in political science

The awards are scheduled to begin April and May of 2015.

FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES



USDA Agricultural Marketing Service Local Food Promotion Program (LFPP)



Deadline: May 14, 2015 11:59 PM EST

The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA), Agricultural Marketing Service (AMS), requests applications for fiscal year (FY) 2015 Local Food Promotion Program (LFPP) to competitively award grants to eligible applicants to plan or implement projects that assist in the development, improvement, and/or expansion of local and regional food business enterprise supply chain activities (activities that are not direct-to-consumer). Approximately \$13 million is available to fund applications under this solicitation. The minimum FY 2015 LFPP award per grant is \$5,000 and the maximum is \$100,000. An applicant is limited to one LFPP award in a funding year. LFPP funding will be available for use beginning September 30, 2015. A 25 percent funding match is required.

Website: www.ams.usda.gov/LFPP



USDA Agricultural Marketing Service Farmers Market Promotion Program (FMPP)



Deadline: May 14, 2015 11:59 PM EST

The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA), Agricultural Marketing Service (AMS), requests applications for fiscal year (FY) 2015 Farmers Market Promotion Program (FMPP) to competitively award grants to eligible applicants for projects that establish, expand, and promote direct producer-to-consumer marketing. Approximately \$13 million is available to fund applications under this solicitation. The minimum FY 2015 FMPP award per grant is \$15,000 and the maximum is \$100,000. An applicant is limited to one FMPP award in a funding year. FMPP funding will be available for use beginning September 30, 2015. Matching funds are not required.

Website: www.ams.usda.gov/FMPP



USDA National Institute of Food and Agriculture Farm to School Grant Program



United States Department of Agriculture
National Institute of Food and Agriculture

Estimated Total Program Funding: \$6,000,000 Award Ceiling: \$100,000

Training Grant Letter of Intent Due: April 30, 2015 11:59 PM EST

Application Submission Due: May 20, 2015 11:59 PM EST

The goal of the Food Security Challenge Area for FY 2015 is to develop agricultural production research, education, and extension to develop more sustainable, productive, and economically viable plant and animal production systems. This program will also develop regionally adapted crop cultivars and livestock/breeds that contribute to rural economic development and prosperity while enhancing food security. These investments will increase food security by improving agricultural production systems at the regional and national levels and by encouraging diversification of agricultural production.

Website: <http://www.fns.usda.gov/farmtoschool/farm-school-grant-program>

FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES


NEW

USDA National Institute of Food and Agriculture

Hispanic-Serving Institutions (HSI) Education Grants Program



United States Department of Agriculture
National Institute of Food and Agriculture

Strengthening Projects Deadline: April 16, 2015

Standard Projects Deadline: April 21, 2015

Collaboration Deadline: April 23, 2015

NIFA requests applications for the Hispanic-Serving Institutions (HSI) Education Grants Program for fiscal year (FY) 2015 to promote and strengthen the ability of Hispanic-Serving Institutions to carry out higher education programs that attract, retain, and graduate outstanding students capable of enhancing the nation's food, agricultural, and natural resource scientific and professional work force. The amount available for support of this program in FY 2015 is approximately \$9.2 million.

Website: <http://nifa.usda.gov/funding-opportunity/hispanic-serving-institutions-education-grants-program-his>

USDA - National Institute of Food and Agriculture

Agriculture and Food Research Initiative: Food Security Challenge Area

Estimated Total Program Funding: \$16,800,000 Award Ceiling: \$4,000,000

Deadline: June 4, 2015

The goal of the Food Security Challenge Area for FY 2015 is to develop agricultural production research, education, and extension to develop more sustainable, productive, and economically viable plant and animal production systems. This program will also develop regionally adapted crop cultivars and livestock/breeds that contribute to rural economic development and prosperity while enhancing food security. These investments will increase food security by improving agricultural production systems at the regional and national levels and by encouraging diversification of agricultural production.

Website: <http://www.nifa.usda.gov/funding/rfas/afri.html>



United States Department of Agriculture
National Institute of Food and Agriculture

USDA Rural Development - Rural Business-Cooperative Service

Rural Energy for America Program

Max. Loan amount: \$25 million per applicant Total Grant Funding: \$500,000

Deadline: Applications for this program are accepted year round

Provides guaranteed loan financing and grant funding to agricultural producers and rural small businesses to purchase or install renewable energy systems or make energy efficiency improvements. Agricultural producers with at least 50% of gross income coming from agricultural operations, and small businesses in eligible rural areas may apply.

Website: <http://www.rd.usda.gov/programs-services/rural-energy-america-program-renewable-energy-systems-energy-efficiency>



United States
Department of
Agriculture

FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES



TRANSPORTATION ALTERNATIVES PROGRAM

Deadline: May 4, 2015

On January 16, 2015, the Texas Department of Transportation (the department) announced a Call for Projects under the Transportation Alternatives Program (TAP). The TAP, as administered by the department, provides funding for a variety of alternative transportation projects, including on- and off-road pedestrian and bicycle facilities, infrastructure for non-driver access to public transportation, projects that enhance mobility, and Safe Routes to School infrastructure projects. A project sponsor must submit its project nomination in the form prescribed by the department. The complete nomination package must be received by the department no later than 5:00 p.m., CDT, on Monday, May 4, 2015, as published in the Texas Register.

Website: www.txdot.gov/inside-txdot/division/public-transportation/local-assistance.html



Texas Parks & Wildlife Department

Texas Recreational Trails Fund



Estimated Total Program Funding: \$200,000

Deadline: February 1, 2016

The Texas Parks and Wildlife Department (TPWD) administers the National Recreational Trails Fund in Texas under the approval of the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA). This federally funded program receives its funding from a portion of federal gas taxes paid on fuel used in non-highway recreational vehicles. Funds can be spent on both motorized and non-motorized recreational trail projects. Funding provided by this program is on a **cost reimbursement** basis. Website: <http://www.tpwd.state.tx.us/business/grants/>

ELIGIBLE PROJECT ACTIVITIES:

1. Construction of new recreational trails on public (federal, state, county, municipal, district, etc.) or private lands. To receive funding for trails on private lands, the sponsor must obtain a legally binding easement, lease, or license, satisfactory to TPWD, keeping the trail open to the public for a minimum of twenty (20) years.
2. Trail restoration, rehabilitation or resurfacing. Includes rerouting or repair of areas damaged by trail use, flooding, or erosion; rehabilitation of trail tread and facilities that have deteriorated over time as well as Americans with Disabilities Act upgrades.
3. Development of trail-side and trail-head facilities.

ELIGIBLE APPLICANTS: Cities, Counties, State agencies (including TPWD state parks and wildlife management areas), Other governmental bodies created under state law such as river authorities, water districts, municipal utility districts, or public school districts, Federal land managers, Private not for profit organizations (e.g. trail user groups, conservation clubs, "Friends of the Park") For purposes of implementing the Texas Recreational Trails Fund (TRTF), organizations must be incorporated with the Secretary of State or must have filed with the county to do business in Texas.



BOYS & GIRLS CLUBS
OF EDINBURG
RIO GRANDE VALLEY

The Boys & Girls Clubs of Edinburg RGV has 10 slots available for their Summer AmeriCorps Program. Applicants must have a high school diploma or GED and be 18 years of age and older. The term of service is May 21, 2015 - July 31, 2015, participants must complete 300 hours which averages to 30 hours a week. A living allowance of \$2000 will be provided to be paid at \$200 per week along with a \$1000 education award. If you are a grandparent, parent, aunt, uncle etc... You can serve as a volunteer and designate the education award to your grandchild, child, niece or nephew!

Interested applicants can contact Sabrina Walker Hernandez at swalker@edinburgkids.com or Adriana Rendon at arendon@edinburgkids.com.

Looking for a fun way to earn money for college and
want to make a difference!

We are looking for 10 great people for our Summer AmeriCorps Program at
Boys & Girls Clubs of Edinburg RGV.

Contact Sabrina at swalker@edinburgkids.com or
Adriana at arendon@edinburgkids.com

- Must be 18 and older
- Must have a high School Diploma
- Must complete 300 volunteer hours; a living allowance of \$2,000 will be provided (\$200 weekly)
- Term of service is May 21-July 31
- Education Award of \$1,000.00

Great news, if you are a grandparent, parent, aunt, uncle etc. You can serve as a volunteer and designate the education award to your grandchild,

GREAT FUTURES START [HERE](#).






The Bollinger Foundation 2015 Grant Awards



Deadline: May 15, 2015

The Bollinger Foundation is announcing its 2015 grant awards that provide assistance for families who have lost a parent or guardian where either the deceased or surviving parent or guardian worked or continues to work in the field of public housing, community development, or economic development. Grants are primarily awarded for educational expenses, including special educational needs, school materials, and college tuition. Deadline to submit an application is **May 15**. For more information visit their website www.bollingerfoundation.org.



2015 FOSTER GRANDPARENT GRANT OPPORTUNITY

Deadline: April 30, 2015 at 5:00 PM Eastern Time

The Corporation for National and Community Service (CNCS) Texas State Office announces a grant funding opportunity for eligible organizations to apply to operate and manage a Foster Grandparent Program local project in Hidalgo, Cameron and Willacy Counties.

Annual funding of up to \$217,448 to support up to 48 Volunteer Service Year's is available.

Eligibility: faith-based and secular non-profit organizations, institutions of higher education, state education agencies, Indian tribes, and local government entities.

Website: [www.nationalservice.gov/SeniorCorps Replacement Grants](http://www.nationalservice.gov/SeniorCorps_Replacement_Grants)



AmeriCorps VISTA (Volunteers In Service To America)

Deadline: Applications for this program are accepted year round

The Corporation for National and Community Service (CNCS) Texas State Office seeks Concept Papers for the AmeriCorps VISTA program from innovative, high-performing and outcome-driven organizations that share the AmeriCorps VISTA mission to provide long term solutions to poverty. Organizations interested in sponsoring an AmeriCorps VISTA project in Texas are invited to submit a Concept Paper through the online eGrants system.

Eligibility: Public, private, or faith-based nonprofit organizations. Local, state, or federal agencies

Website: www.nationalservice.gov/programs/ameriCorps/ameriCorps-vista/sponsor-vista-project



Instrument Matching Grant

Deadline: 6/30/2015

Classics for Kids Foundation announces funds to provide support to enhance school music programs by providing matching grants for beautiful new stringed instruments.

Eligibility: Nonprofit organizations and Local Educational Agencies

Contact: Michael Reynolds at (508) 740-8331 or mr@classicsforkidsfoundation.org

Website: www.grants.gov Grant ID: GD5884



Latin Music Research and Preservation Grants



Deadline: 4/17/2015

Latin GRAMMY Cultural Foundation announces funds for the research and preservation of Latin music genre. Letters of Inquiry are required and due by April 17.

Eligibility: Public and state controlled institutions of higher education, nonprofit organizations and private institutions of higher education

Funds: Awards are available up to \$5,000

Contact: Latin GRAMMY Cultural Foundation at or lgcf@grammy.com

Website: <http://www.latingrammy.com/en/latin-grammy-cultural-foundation#linkapplications>



Safe Places to Play Grant



Deadline: 6/5/2015

Letter of Interest are required and due by May 22, 2015

The U.S. Soccer Foundation announces funds to support soccer programs and field-building initiatives nationwide.

Eligibility: Nonprofit organizations

Funds: Awards are available up to \$50,000

Contact: U.S. Soccer Foundation

Website:

http://www.ussoccerfoundation.org/uploads/grantguide/US_Soccer_Foundation_Guide_to_Grants_2014-2015_2-17-2015.pdf

Grant ID: GD5919





Workforce Diversity Pipeline Program



Deadline: 5/17/2015

The Department of Health and Human Services announces funds to support programs that will address health disparities among racial and ethnic minorities by supporting networks of institutions focused on, and with demonstrated commitment and capacity to establish pipeline programs to increase minority and disadvantaged students awareness of and pursuit in the areas of health care and behavioral health and also increase the availability of STEM education programs.

Eligibility: State governments, nonprofit organizations, faith-based organizations, for-profit organizations other than small businesses, community-based organizations and hospitals

Funds: \$2,500,000 is available for eight awards up to \$500,000

Contact: Grants.gov at or support@grants.gov

Website: www.grants.gov

Grant ID: GD5902



Help America Vote Act



Deadline: 5/26/2015

Funds: \$347,218 is available for two awards

The Department of Health and Human Services announces funds for training and technical assistance to assist protection and advocacy systems in promoting full participation in the electoral process for individuals with disabilities, including registering to vote, casting a vote, and accessing polling places; developing proficiency in the use of voting systems and technologies as they affect individuals with disabilities; demonstrating and evaluating the use of such systems and technologies by individuals with disabilities (including blindness) in order to assess the availability and use of such systems and technologies for such individuals; and providing training and technical assistance for non-visual access.

Eligibility: Public and state controlled institutions of higher education, nonprofit organizations, faith-based organizations, private institutions of higher education and community-based organizations

Contact: Melvenia Wright at Melvenia.Wright@acl.hhs.gov

Website: www.grants.gov Grant ID: GD5908



Partner Support for Heart Disease and Stroke Prevention



Deadline: 5/11/2015

The Department of Health and Human Services announces funds to enhance the dissemination and promotion of evidenced-based strategies and resources to support the prevention and control of heart-disease, stroke, and related risk factors such as high blood pressure, high LDL cholesterol, and high sodium intake.

Eligibility: City or township governments, county governments, independent school districts, special district governments, public and state controlled institutions of higher education, state governments, nonprofit organizations, public housing authorities, private institutions of higher education, for-profit organizations other than small businesses and unrestricted small businesses

Funds: \$500,000 is available for awards up to \$500,000

Contact: Stephanie Bernard at SIJ9@cdc.gov

Website: www.grants.gov Grant ID: GD5890



US Department of Health and Human Services

FY15 Partnerships to Increase Coverage in Communities II Initiative

Funds: \$3,500,000 is available for 17 awards up to \$250,000

Deadline: 5/22/2015

The Department of Health and Human Services announces funds to continue outreach efforts for the Affordable Care Act in order to ensure that the public, including minority populations, understand the health insurance options and receive the assistance they need to obtain coverage through the marketplace as smoothly as possible.

Eligibility: City or township governments, county governments, public and state controlled institutions of higher education, nonprofit organizations, faith-based organizations, private institutions of higher education, for-profit organizations other than small businesses, small businesses, community-based organizations and hospitals

Website: www.grants.gov Grant ID: GD5907



US Department of Health and Human Services

State Partnership Initiative to Address Health Disparities

Funds: \$3,000,000 is available for 17 awards up to \$200,000

Deadline: 5/24/2015

The Department of Health and Human Services announces funds to support partnerships that will improve the health of racial and ethnic minority populations through the development of health policies and programs that will help eliminate health disparities.

Eligibility: City or township governments, county governments, state governments, nonprofit organizations and community-based organizations

Funds: Contact: Support Grants.gov at support@grants.gov

Website: www.grants.gov

Grant ID: GD5906



US Department of Health and Human Services

Health Profession Opportunity Grants to Serve TANF Recipients and Other Low-Income Individuals

Funds: \$58,000,000 is available for 35 awards up to \$3,000,000

Deadline: 5/29/2015

The Department of Health and Human Services announces funds to support projects that provide individuals with education and training that will prepare them to enter and advance in the healthcare sector.

Eligibility: Faith-based organizations, private institutions of higher education, others and community-based organizations

Contact: ACF Applications Help desk at or app_support@acf.hhs.gov

Website: <http://www.acf.hhs.gov/grants/open/foa/view/HHS-2010-ACF-OFA-FX-0951>

Grant ID: GD5920



**US Department of Health and Human Services****Funds: \$13,600,000 is available for 18 awards up to \$400,000****Deadline: 5/25/2015**

Offender Reentry Program (HHS). Department of Health and Human Services announces funds to expand and/or enhance substance use disorder treatment and related recovery and reentry services to sentenced substance-abusing adult offenders/ex-offenders who are returning to their families and community from incarceration in state and local facilities including prisons, jails, or detention centers.

Eligibility: City or township governments, county governments, special district governments, public and state controlled institutions of higher education, state governments, nonprofit organizations, faith-based organizations, private institutions of higher education, community-based organizations and DC government agencies

Website: www.grants.gov Grant ID: GD5909

**US Department of Health and Human Services****Family Violence Prevention and Services Discretionary Grant Program****National Domestic Violence Hotline (HHS)****Funds: \$4,100,000 is available for awards****Deadline: 5/11/2015**

The Department of Health and Human Services announces funds to support a program that will operate a 24-hour, national, toll-free telephone hotline to provide information and assistance to adult and youth victims of family violence, domestic violence, or dating violence, family and household members of such victims, and persons affected by the victimization.

Eligibility: Nonprofit organizations, faith-based organizations, private institutions of higher education, for-profit organizations other than small businesses, small businesses and community-based organizations

Contact: Department of Health and Human Services at app_support@acf.hhs.gov

Website: www.grants.gov Grant ID: GD5879

**US Department of Labor****Training to Work 3 - Adult Reentry****Funds: \$27,000,000 is available for 20 awards up to \$1,360,000****Deadline: 5/1/2015**

Training to Work 3 – Adult Reentry (DOL). Department of Labor announces funds to develop and implement career pathways programs in demand sectors and occupations for men and women, including veterans, and people with disabilities, who are at least 18 years old and who are enrolled in work release programs.

Eligibility: Nonprofit organizations

Website: www.grants.gov Grant ID: GD5910

**US Department of Health and Human Services**

Funds: \$13,600,000 is available for 18 awards up to \$400,000

Deadline: 5/25/2015

Offender Reentry Program (HHS). Department of Health and Human Services announces funds to expand and/or enhance substance use disorder treatment and related recovery and reentry services to sentenced substance-abusing adult offenders/ex-offenders who are returning to their families and community from incarceration in state and local facilities including prisons, jails, or detention centers.

Eligibility: City or township governments, county governments, special district governments, public and state controlled institutions of higher education, state governments, nonprofit organizations, faith-based organizations, private institutions of higher education, community-based organizations and DC government agencies

Contact: Eileen Bermudez at (240) 276-1412 or eileen.bermudez@samhsa.hhs.gov

Website: www.grants.gov Grant ID: GD5909

**US Department of Justice**

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF
JUSTICE

Funds: \$2,500,000 is available for five awards up to \$500,000

Deadline: June 1, 2015

Second Chance Act Supporting Latino/a Youth from Out-of-Home Placement to the Community (DOJ). The Department of Justice announces funds to promote effective and successful reentry services for Latino/a youth who are transitioning back into their communities from secure confinement facilities, including out-of-home placement.

Eligibility: Nonprofit organizations, faith-based organizations and community-based organizations

Contact: Response Center at (800) 851-3420 or responsecenter@ncjrs.gov

Website: www.grants.gov

Grant ID: GD5932

US Department of Health and Human Services

Funds: \$2,010,000 is available for three awards up to \$670,000

Deadline: April 24, 2015

Building the Evidence for Family Group Decision-Making in Child Welfare (DOJ). Department of Health and Human Services announces funds to support projects that will be designed to support families in making decisions and developing plans that nurture children in the target population, protect them from abuse and neglect and when appropriate, address domestic violence issues in a safe manner.

Eligibility: City or township governments, public and state controlled institutions of higher education, state governments, non-profit organizations, private institutions of higher education, community-based organizations

Contact: ACF Applications Help Desk at app_support@acf.hhs.gov

Website: www.grants.gov Grant ID: GD5865

 NEH GRANT	GRANT AMOUNT	APPLICATION DEADLINE	NEH DEPARTMENT
<u>Awards for Faculty at Hispanic-Serving Institutions</u>	The amount of the award is \$4,200 per full-time month.	April 15, 2015	Division of Research Programs
<u>Awards for Faculty at Historically Black Colleges and Universities</u>	The amount of the award is \$4,200 per full-time month.	April 15, 2015	Division of Research Programs
<u>Awards for Faculty at Tribal Colleges and Universities</u>	The amount of the award is \$4,200 per full-time month.	April 15, 2015	Division of Research Programs
<u>Fellowships</u>	A stipend of \$4,200 per month. The maximum stipend is \$50,400 for a twelve-month award period.	April 30, 2015	Division of Research Programs
<u>Fellowships for Advanced Social Science Research on Japan</u>	A stipend of \$4,200 per month. The maximum stipend is \$50,400 for a twelve-month award period.	April 30, 2015	Division of Research Programs
<u>Challenge Grants</u>	Range in recent years from \$75,000 to \$500,000.	May 5, 2015	Office of Challenge Grants
<u>Preservation and Access Education and Training</u>	The maximum award is \$100,000 per year.	May 5, 2015	Division of Preservation and Access
<u>Preservation Assistance Grants for Smaller Institutions</u>	Grants of up to \$6,000 will be awarded.	May 5, 2015	Division of Preservation and Access



United States Department of Agriculture

News Release

USDA Invites Applications for Loans to Fund Community Facility Projects

TEMPLE, TEXAS, March 5, 2015 –USDA Rural Development has recently been awarded over \$60 million in funding to be dispersed for community facility projects throughout Texas. Funding is authorized through the Department’s Community Facilities Direct and Guaranteed Loan Program.

"We are pleased to announce available funding in the form of low interest loans, guaranteed loans, and grants used to develop or improve essential facilities and equipment in rural communities that have experienced a lack of capital during these challenging times," said Paco Valentin, Rural Development Texas State Director. "Funds to promote local and regional food systems, healthcare and education broadband protocol, renewable energy/energy efficiency, public safety and public service facilities are in much demand statewide."

USDA Rural Developments’ community programs enhance the quality of life for rural Texans by providing funds to public bodies, community-based non-profit organizations and Federally-recognized Tribes for essential community facilities and services. Funds may be used for a wide range of various community projects. These include, but are not limited to, projects such as those which will enlarge, improve or construct schools, libraries, farmers markets, medical clinics, assisted living centers, public buildings, and community centers. Funding can also be used to purchase public safety equipment such as ambulances, firefighting equipment, and other emergency required implements.

Community Programs can make and guarantee loans to develop essential community facilities in rural areas and towns of up to 20,000 in population. Loans and guarantees are available to public entities such as municipalities, counties, and special-purpose districts, as well as to non-profit corporations and tribal governments. Community Programs can guarantee loans made and serviced by lenders such as banks, savings and loans, mortgage companies which are part of bank holding companies, banks of the Farm Credit System, or insurance companies regulated by the National Association of Insurance Commissioners. Community Programs may guarantee up to 90% of any loss of interest or principal on the loan. Community Programs can also make direct loans to applicants who are unable to obtain commercial credit. In some circumstances, grants may be awarded to smaller communities.

Applications are now being accepted to fund projects meeting the criteria for community facility loan, guaranteed loan, and grant programs, as outlined on:

<http://www.rd.usda.gov/programs-services/community-facilities-direct-loan-grant-program/tx>.

USDA Rural Development strives to see that rural citizens can participate fully in the global economy by providing technical assistance, funding, and other programs that help rural Americans build strong economies to improve their quality of life. For further information regarding this program or any other USDA Rural Development Programs, contact your nearest Rural Development office, all listed on our website <http://rd.usda.gov/tx>.



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF LABOR

News Release

\$27M in grants to help incarcerated individuals in prison work-release find stable jobs, strengthen underserved communities

Training to Work funds seek to boost economy, reduce prison recidivism

WASHINGTON – Returning home from prison can be hard, particularly without the benefits of a stable job. Without employment, the likelihood of recidivism rises. To provide the support, training and assistance needed to find and keep a good job, the U.S. Labor Department today announced a \$27 million Training to Work – Adult Reentry grant program – to help thousands of soon-to-be-released inmates become productive citizens.

“A good job gives a person a sense of dignity and purpose. It enables them to find a decent place to live and enjoy a hot meal at home,” said U.S. Secretary of Labor Thomas E. Perez. “Good jobs are a pathway to the middle class. Those who have paid their debt to society deserve the opportunity to find and hold useful employment. It puts money in their pocket, most of which is pumped back into the economy. In the best America, everyone shares our prosperity. That’s what these grants can make possible.”

Training to Work grants will fund sustainable efforts to develop and adopt career pathway models – an approach designed to link and coordinate education and training services for individuals to obtain industry recognized credentials. With these credentials, these workers can find meaningful employment and meet the needs of local employers in growing sectors and industries.

The department expects to award approximately 20 grants with a maximum value of \$1,360,000 each to provide training and employment services for men and women, ages 18 and older (including veterans), who participate in state or local work-release programs.

Grant applicants must be located in an area with high poverty and high crime rates, including Promise Zones – communities which often have a larger proportion of returning citizens and higher rates of recidivism. Applicants will also be required to establish a committed Career Pathways Collaborative led by the grantee, and consist of representatives from the workforce system, work release programs, and employers and/or industry associations. The CPC leadership team will create a comprehensive program. Selected applicants will be expected to include the following components in their proposals: case management, mentoring services, educational activities, training that leads to industry-recognized credentials, workforce activities, and follow-up services.

Nonprofit organizations that meet the requirements of the solicitation may apply. The Funding Opportunity Announcement, which includes information about how to apply, is available at <http://www.grants.gov>.



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF HOMELAND SECURITY

News Release

DHS ANNOUNCES GRANT GUIDANCE FOR FISCAL YEAR (FY) 2015 PREPAREDNESS GRANTS

WASHINGTON—Secretary of Homeland Security Jeh Johnson today announced the release of Fiscal Year (FY) 2015 Notices of Funding Opportunity for nine DHS preparedness grant programs totaling more than \$1.6 billion. The grant programs provide funding to state, local, tribal and territorial governments, as well as transportation authorities, nonprofit organizations, and the private sector, to improve the nation's readiness in preventing, protecting against, responding to, recovering from and mitigating terrorist attacks, major disasters and other emergencies. The grants reflect the Department's focus on implementation of an all-of-nation, whole-community approach to the building, sustainment, and delivery of those core capabilities essential to achieving a secure and resilient nation.

Preparedness Grant Program Allocations for Fiscal Year 2015

Homeland Security Grant Program (HSGP)—provides more than \$1 billion for states and urban areas to prevent, protect against, mitigate, respond to, and recover from acts of terrorism and other threats.

State Homeland Security Program (SHSP)—provides more than \$402 million to all states and territories to support the implementation of risk-driven, capabilities-based State Homeland Security Strategies to address capability targets.

Urban Area Security Initiative (UASI)—provides \$587 million to enhance regional preparedness and capabilities the nation's 28 highest-risk, highest-threat, highest-density urban areas.

Operation Stonegarden (OPSG)—provides \$55 million to enhance cooperation and coordination among local, tribal, territorial, state and Federal law enforcement agencies to jointly enhance security along the United States land and water borders.

Nonprofit Security Grant Program (NSGP)—provides \$13 million to support target hardening and other physical security enhancements for nonprofit organizations that are at high risk of a terrorist attack and located within one of the FY 2015 UASI-eligible urban areas.

Port Security Grant Program (PSGP)—provides more than \$100 million to help protect critical port infrastructure from terrorism, enhance maritime domain awareness, improve port-wide maritime security risk management, and maintain or reestablish maritime security mitigation protocols that support port recovery and resiliency capabilities.

Transit Security Grant Program (TSGP)—provides more than \$87 million to owners and operators of transit systems to protect critical surface transportation and the traveling public from acts of terrorism and to increase the resilience of transit infrastructure.

Intercity Bus Security Grant Program (IBSGP)—provides \$3 million to owners and operators of intercity bus systems to protect critical surface transportation infrastructure and the traveling public from acts of terrorism and to increase the resilience of transit infrastructure.

The Emergency Management Performance Grant (EMPG) applications, announced on March 25, 2015, are due no later than April 24, 2015.

Further information on DHS's preparedness grant programs is available at:

www.dhs.gov and <http://www.fema.gov/grants>



U.S. Citizenship
and Immigration
Services

News Release

USCIS Announces Citizenship and Integration Grant Opportunity

Grants Will Support Citizenship Preparation Services for Permanent Residents

WASHINGTON—U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS) is now accepting applications for the Citizenship and Integration Grant Program, a competitive grant opportunity for organizations that prepare permanent residents for naturalization and promote civic integration through increased knowledge of English, U.S. history and civics. The program will provide up to \$10 million in grants for citizenship preparation programs in communities across the country. **Applications are due by May 15.**

Through this grant opportunity, USCIS seeks to expand the number of high-quality citizenship preparation services available throughout the country. Organizations selected to receive funding will offer both citizenship instruction and naturalization application services to permanent residents. USCIS expects to announce up to 40 award recipients in September 2015.

Since 2009, USCIS has awarded approximately \$43 million through 222 grants to organizations that have provided citizenship preparation services to more than 100,000 permanent residents in 35 states and the District of Columbia.

To apply for this funding opportunity, visit www.grants.gov. USCIS encourages applicants to visit www.grants.gov before the application deadline in order to obtain registration information needed to complete the application process.

For additional information on the Citizenship and Integration Grant Program for fiscal year 2015, visit <http://www.uscis.gov/about-us/citizenship-and-integration-grant-program> or email the USCIS Office of Citizenship at citizenshipgrantprogram@uscis.dhs.gov.

Additional Grant Information:

Funding Opportunity: DHS-15-CIS-010-002

Application Deadline: May 15, 2015 (No extensions)

Estimated Number of Awards: Up to 40

Anticipated Funding Amount: Up to \$10,000,000

Performance Period: Two years (comprising two one-year budget periods)

Anticipated Award Date: September 17, 2015

Maximum Grant Award: Maximum grant award is \$250,000 (\$125,000 for the first year budget period and \$125,000 for the second year budget period)

April 2015

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			1	2	3	4
5	6 <small>USDA HSI 1ST PROJECT DUE</small>	7	8	9	10	11
12	13	14	15 <small>NEH GRANTS DUE</small>	16	17 <small>LATIN GRAMMY APP DUE</small>	18
19	20 <small>DOJ GRANT DUE</small>	21 <small>USDA HSI 2ND PROJECT DUE</small>	22	23 <small>USDA HSI 3rd PROJECT DUE</small>	24 <small>HHS GRANT DUE</small>	25
26	27	28	29	30 <small>USDA Farm to School Letter Due Foster Grandparent App NEH GRANT DUE</small>		

Grant Class Available

For: All County, City and Non-Profit Organizations

Dates: July 15-16, 2015

Location: University of Texas—Rio Grande Valley

Registration information can be found in our

May 2015 Grants Alert Newsletter

For more information on these and other funding opportunities,
 please contact: Jessica Treviño, Grants Coordinator
 Edinburg District Office 2864 W. Trenton Rd. Edinburg, Texas 78539

Office: (956) 682-5545 Fax: (956) 682-0141

jessica.trevino@mail.house.gov